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## **Legislature introduces “Fire Safety First Package”**

*Senator Hammerstrom Joins Colleagues to Help Reduce Michigan Fire Fatalities*

**March 21, 2003**-Following an alarming 2001 report that approximately 150 people, including several children, perished in household fires, Senator Beverly Hammerstrom (R-Temperance) joined her colleagues and Flagstar Bank to help promote fire safety. A multiple-bill package was re-introduced by the Michigan Legislature that will provide tax incentives to residents that purchase and use fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems and fire suppression equipment.

“I’m pleased to see join Senators Shirley Johnson, Valde Garcia and Mike Bishop in helping to encourage people to be more aware of the danger, and sometimes, tragedy of fire,” said Hammerstrom. “Each year, families lose loved ones, and even their homes, because of a fire that could have been prevented.”

The bills key goals include:

- Exemption of the Michigan sales tax for fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems and fire suppression systems.
- Up to \$100 refundable income tax credit for purchasing fire safety equipment within the tax year.
- Exemption from use tax on the purchase, storage or use of fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems and fire suppression systems.
- Require that the preservation of any facilities, buildings or structures deemed historical by a municipality must include equipping the historic site with a fire alarm system.
- Require that a historic district study committee not recommend the establishment of a historic district unless each building within the proposed district is equipped with a fire alarm system.

“It is our intent to encourage Michigan residents to practice fire prevention,” Hammerstrom said. “This legislation shows our continued commitment to the people of this great state.”